same months of 1889. The results attained by a reorganization and consolidation of the divisions having charge of the hospital and service records of volunteer soldiers are very remarkable. This change was effected in July, 1889, and at that time there were 40,654 case awaiting attention, more than half of these being calls from the pension office for information necessary to the adjudi-. cat on of pension claims. On the 30th day of June last, though over 300,000 new calls had come in, there was not a single case that had not been examined

I concur in the recommendation of the secretary that an adequate and regular appropriation be continued for coast defense works and ordinance. Plans have been practically agreed upon and there can be no good reason for delaying the execution of them, while the defenseless state of our great seaports furnishes an urgent reason for wise expedition. The encouragement that has been extended to the militia of the states, generally and most appropriately designated "the National Guard, " should be continued and enlarged. These military organizations constitute in a large sense the army of the United States, while about fivewixths of the annual cost of their maintenance is defrayed by the states

JUDICIARY.
The report of the attorney-general is, under the law, submitted directly to congress, but as the department of justice is one of the executive departents some reference to the work done is appropriate here. A vigorous and in the main, an effective effort has en made to bring to trial and punishment all violators of the laws, but at the s me time care has been taken that frivolous and technical offenses should not be used to swell the fees of officers or harnes well disposed cititens. Especial attention is called to the facts connected with the prosecution of violators of the election laws and of officenses against United States officers. The number of convictions secured, very many of them upon pleas of guilty, will, it is hoped, have a salutary restraining influence. There have been several cases where postmasters appointed by me have been

UBJECT TO VIOLENT INTERFERENCE in the discharge of their official duties. and to persecutions and personal violence of the most extreme character. Some of those cases have been dealt with through the department of justice, and in some cases the postoffices have been abolished or suspended. I have directed the postmaster-general to pursue this course in all cases where other efforts have falled to secure for any postmaster not himself in fault an opportunity pencefully to exercise the duties of his flice, but such action will not supplant the efforts of the department of justice to bring particular offenders to punish-The vacating by judicial decreaof fraudulent cirtificates of naturalization whom bills in equity filed by the attorney-general in the circuit court of the United States is a new application of a familiar equity jurisdiction. Nearly 100 such decrees have been taken during the year, the evidence disclosing that a very large number of fraudulent certificates of naturalization have been issued. In this connection I beg to renew my recommendation that the law be so amended as to require a more full and scarching inquiry into all the facts necessary to naturalization before any cerinficates are granted. It certainly is not too much to require that application for American citizenship shall be heard with much care, and recorded with as much ormality as are given to cases involving

the pettiest property right, At the last session I returned without my approval a bill entitled "an act to prohibit bookmaking and pool-selling in the District of Columbia, 12 and stated my objection to be that it did not prohibit, but in fact licensed what it purported to probibit Efforts will be made inder existing laws to suppress this evil. It is not cer ain that they will be found

important work committed to him. The bus ness methods have been greatly improved. A large economy in expenditures and an increase of \$1,075,000 m receipts have been realized. The deficiency this year is \$5,780,300, na against \$,350,183 last year, notwithstanding the great enlargement of the Mail routes have been extended and quickened, and greater accuracy and disputch in distribution and delivery have been attained. The report will be found to be full of interest and suggestions , not only to congress, but to those thoughtful citizens who may be interested and know what business methods can do for that department of public administration which most nearly touches all our people.

The passage of the act to amend certurn sections of the revised statutes relating to lotteries, approved September and deserved popular favor. The postoffice department and the department of justice at once entered upon the enforcement of the law with sympathetic vigor. and already the public mails have been demoralizing appeals and literature emanating from the lottery companies.

SAVY. The construction and equipment of the new ships for the navy have made very satisfactory progress. Since March 4, 1889, more new vessels have been put in commission, and during this winter four ore, including one monitor, will be added. The construction of the other vessels authorized is being pushed both in energy and watched with the most scrupulous care. The experiments condue ed during the year to test the relative power of armor plates have been so valuable as to attract great attention in Europe. The only part of the work upon the new ships that is threatened by unusual delay is the armor plating, and every effort is being made to reduce that to the minimum. It is a source of congratulation that the anticipated influence of these modern vessels upon the esprit de corps of the officers and seamen has fully realized. Confidence and pride in the ship among the crew are equivalent to a secondary battery. Your favorable consideration is invited to the recommendations of the secretary.

THE INTERIOR. The report of the secretary of the interior exhibits with great fullness and olearness the vast work of that great department and the satisfactory results attained. The suggestions made by him are earnestly commended to the consideration of congress, though they cannot all be given particular mention here. The several acts of congress looking to the reduction of the large Indian reservations, to the more rapid settlement of the Indians upon individual allotments, and the restoration to the public domain of lands in excess of their needs, have been largely carried into effect, so far as the work was confided to the executive. Agreements have been concluded since March 4, 1889, involving the cessation to

felt, 33 per cent, as compared with the the United States of about 14,726,000 acres of land. The contracts have, as required by law, been submitted to congress for ratification and for the appropristions necessary to carry them into effect. Those, with the Sisseton and Wanpeton, Sac and Fox, Iowa, Pottawactamies, and absentee Shawnees and Cour d'Alene tribes, have not received the sanction of congress. Attention is also called to the fact that the appropriations made in the case of the Sloux Indians have not covered all the stipulated payments. This should be promptly corrected. If an agreement is confirmed, all of its terms should be complied with without delay, and appropriations

PATENTING OF LANDS.

policy outlined in my last message in relation to the annual patenting of lands to settlers upon the public domain has been carried out in the administration of the land offices. No general suspicion nor imputation of fraud has been allowed to delay the hearing and adjudication of individual cases upon their merits. The purpose has been to perfect the title of honest settlers with such promptness that the value of the entry might not be swallowed up by the expense and extortions to which delay subjected the claim-

The average monthly issue of agricultural patents has been increased about The disability pension act which was approved on the 27th of June last has been put into operation as rapidly as The increased cierical force as provided was selected and assigned to work and a considerable part of field was recalled and added to the working force of the office. The examination and adjudication of claims have by reason of improved methods been more rapid than ever before. There is no economy to the government in delay, while there is much hardship and injustice to the soldier. The anticipated expenditure, while very large, will not, it is believed, be in excess of the estimates made before the enactment of the law This liberal enlargement of the general law should suggest a more careful serutiny of blils for special relief, both as to the cases where relief is granted and as to the amount allowed.

MORMONISM. The increasing numbers and influence of non-Mormon population in Utah are observed with satisfaction. The recent letter of Wilford Woodruff, president of the Mormon church, in which he advised his people "to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the taws of the land," has attracted wide attention and it is hoped that its infinence will be highly beneficial in restraining infractions of the law of the United States. But the doctrine or behef of the church that polygamous marringes are rightful, supported by divine revelation, remains unchanged. President Woodruff does not renounce the doctrine, but refrains from teaching it and advises against the practice of it because the law is against it. Now it is quite true the law should not attempt to deal with the faith or belief of any sect. but Mormonism is quite another thing and the only safety is so to deal with the territory of Utah as that those who believe polygamy to be rightful shall not have the power to make it lawful.

NEW STATES. The admission of the states of Wvoming and Idaho to the Union are events full of interest and congratulation, not only to the people of those states now happily endowed with full participation in our privileges and responsibilities, but to all our people. Another belt of states stretches from the Atlantic to the Pa-

The work of the patent office has won from all sources a very high commendation. The good accomplished has been very largely increased, and all results have been such as to secure confidence and consideration for the suggestions of the commissioner.

CENSUS. United States under the provisions of act The report of the postmaster-general of March 1, 1890, has been completed, shows the most gratifying progress in the communicated to congress. The completion of this decennial enumeration devolves upon congress the duty of making a new apportionment of representatives among the several states according to

their respective numbers. At the last session I had occasion to return with my objections several bills making provisions for the erection of public buildings for the reason that the expenditures contemplated were, in my opinion, greatly in excess of any public need. No class of legislation is more tiable to abuse or to degenerate into an unseemly scramble about the public treasury than this. There should be exereised in this matter a wise economy based upon some responsible and impartial examination, and the report as to each case under a general law.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT. The report of the secretary of agriculture deserves especial attention, in view 19, 1890, has been received with great of the fact the year has been marked in a very unusual degree by agitation and organization among the farmers looking to an increase in the profits of their business. It will be found that the efforts of the department have been inlargely freed from the fraudulent and telligently and zealously devoted to the promotion of the interests intrusted to its care. A very substantial improvement In the market prices of the leading farm products during the year is noticed. The price of wheat advanced from 81 cents in October, 1889, to \$1.00% in October, 1890; corn from 31 cents to 50% cents; outs from 19% cents to 43 cents, and barley from 63 cents to 78 cents. Meats showed a substantial but not so large an increase. The export of live animals the government and private yards with | and fowls shows a very large increase. The total value of such exports for the year ending June 30, 1890, was \$33,000,000, and the increase over the preceding year was over \$15,000,000. Nearly 2,000,000 more cattle and over 45,000 more hogs were exported than in the preceding year. The export trade in beef and pork products and in greasy products was very largely increased by the increase in the article of butter being from 15,504,978 pounds to 29,748,042 pounds, and the total increase in the value of milk and dairy products ex-ported being \$34,000,000. This trade so directly helpful to the farmer, i. is believed, will be yet further and very largely increased when the system of inspection and sanitary supervision now provided by law is brought fully into operation. The efforts of the secretary to establish the healthfulness of our meats against the dispuraging imputations that have been put upon them abroad have resulted in substantial progress. Veterinary surgeons sent out by the department are now allowed to participate in the inspection of the live cat-

from this country landed on the

English docks, and during the several

months they have been on duty no case

of contagious pleuro-pneumonia has been

reported. This inspection abroad and

the domestic inspection of live animals

and pork products provided for by the

net of Augusts 30, 1890, will afford as perfect a guaranty for the wholesome-

ness of our meats offered for foreign con-

sumption as is anywhere given to any food product, and its non-acceptance will quite clearly reveal the real motive of any continued restriction of their use. and that having been made clear the duty of the executive will be very plain.

SUGAR. The information given by the secretary of the progress and prospects of the beet-sugar industry is full of interest. It has already passed the experimental stage, and is a commercial success. The area over which the sugar-beet can be successfully cultivated is very large, another field crop of great value is offered to the choice of the farmer.

The secretary of the treasury concurs in the recommendation of the secretary of agriculture that the official supervision provided by the tariff law for sugar of domestic productions had to be transferred to the department of agriculture. CIVIL SERVICE.

The law relating to civil service has, so far as I can learn, been executed by those baving the power of appointment in the classified service with fidelity and impartiality and the service has been increasingly satisfactory. The report of the commission shows a large amount of good work done during the year with every limited appropriation.

THE TARIFF.

The Beneificial Effects of the New Bill on Commerce Not Yet Felt.

I congratulate congress and the country upon the pass ge at the first session of the Fifty-first congress of an unusual number of laws of very high importance. that the results of this legislation will be quickening and an enlargement of our manufacturing industries larger, and better markets for our breadstuffs and provisions, both at home and abroad, more constant employment and better wages for working people and an increased supply of a safe currency for the transaction of business. I do not doubt that some of these measures were enacted at so late a period that the beneficial effects upon commerce, which were in the contemplation of congress, have as yet but partially manifested themselves. The general trade and industrial conditions througout the country during the year have shown a marked improvement. For many years, prior to 1888, the merchandise balances of foreign trade had been largely in our favor, but during that year, and the year following, they turned against us. It is very g atifying to know that the last fiscal year again shows a balance in our favor of over \$68,000,000. The bank clearings, which furnish good test of the volume of business transacted for the first ten months of the year 1890, show, as compared with the same months of 1889, an increase for the whole country of about 8.4 per cent., while the increase outside of the city of New York was over 13 per cent. During the month of October the clearings of the whole country showed an increase of 3.1 per cent. over October, 1889, while outside of New York the increase was 11.5 per cent. These figures show that the increase in THE VOLUME OF BUSINESS

was very general throughout the country. That this larger business was being conducted upon a safe and profitable basis is shown by the fact that there were 00 less failures reported in October, 1889, than in the same month of the preceding year, with liabilities diminished by about \$5,000,000. The value of our exports of domestic merchandise during the last year was over \$115,000,000 greater than the preceding year, and was only exceeded once in our history. About \$100,000,000 of this excess was in

agricultural products. The production of pig iron, always a good guage of general prosperity, is shown by a recent census bulletin to have been 153 per cent, greater in 1890 than in 1880, and the production of steel

200 per cent greater.

Mining in coat has had no timidity except that resulting from dencient The general testimou is that labor is everywhere fully employed, and the reports for the last year show a smaller number of employes effeeted by strikes and lockouts than any year since 1884.

THE DEPRESSION IN THE PRICES of agricultural products has been greatly relieved, and a bouyant and hopeful tone was beginning to be felt by all our neo-These promising influences have been in some degree checked by the surprising and very unfavorable monetary events which have recently been taking place in England. It is gratifying to know that these did not grow in any degree out of the financial relation of London with our people, or out of any discredit attached to our securities held in that market. The return of our stocks and bonds was caused by a monetary stringency in England-not by any loss of value of credit in the securities themselves. We could not, however, wholly escape the ill effects of a foreign monetary agitation, accompanied by such extraordinary incidents as characterized this. It is not believed, however, that these evil incidents which have for the time unfavorably affected values in this country can long withstand the strong, safe and wholesome influences which are operating to give to our people profitable returns in all branches of legitimate trade and industry.

The apprehensions that our tariff may again and at once be subjected to important general changes would undoubtedly add a depressing influence of the most serious character. The general tariff act has only partially gone into operation, some of its important provisions being limited to take effect at

The general provisions of the law have been in force less than sixty days. Its permanent effect on trade and prices still largely stand in conjecture. It is curious to note that the advance in the prices of articles whosly unaffected by the tariff act, was by many hastily ascribed to that act. Notice was not taken of the fact that the general tendency of the markets was upward from influences lation.

The enlargement of our currency by the silver bill undoubtedly gave an upward tendency to trade, and had a marked effect on prices, but this natural and desired effect of the sliver legislation was by many erroneously attributed to the tariff act. There is neither wisdom nor suggestion that the subject of tariff revision shall be opened before this law has had a fair trial. It is quite true that every tariff schedule is subject to objections No bill was ever tramed I suppose, that in all of its rates and classification had the full approval, even of a party caucus. Such legislation is always, and

necessarily the PRODUCT OF COMPROMISE as to details, and the present law is no exception, but in its general scope and effect I think it will justify the support of those who believe that American legislation should conserve and defend American trade and the wages of American workmen. The mission and

which has been so widely disseminated at home and abroad, will be corrected by experience and the evil auguries as to its results, confounded by the market reports, savings banks, international trade balances and the general propertv of our peeple.

and from our custom houses that the prohibitory effect upon importation imputed to the act is not justified. Imports at the port of New York for the first three weeks of November were nearly 8 per cent, greater than for the same period in 1889, and 29 per cent. greater than in the same period of 1888, and so far from being an act to limit exports l confidently believe that under it we shall secure larger and more profitable participation in foreign trade than we have ever enjoyed, and that we shall receive a proportionate participation in the ocean carrying trade of the world. The criticisms of the bill that have come to us from foreign sources may well be rejected for renugnancy. If these critics really believe that the adoption by us of a free trade policy or of the tariff rates, having reference solely to revenues would diminish the participation of their own countries in the commerce of the world, their advocacy and promotion to speech and other forms of organized effort of this movement among our people in a rare exhibition of unselfishness in trade, and, on the other hand, if they sincerely believe that the adoption of a

PROTECTIVE TARIFF POLICY by this country insures to their profits and our burt, it is noticeably strange they should - lead the outery against the authors of a policy so helpful to their countrymen and crown with their fervor who would snatch from them a substantial share of a trade with other lands, already inadequate to their necessities. There is no disposition among any of our people to promote prohibitory or retalialegislation. Our adopted, not to the burt of others, but to secure for ourselves those advantages that fairly grew out of our favored position as a nation. Our form of government, with its incident of universal suffrage, makes it imperative that we shall save our working people from the agiand wages that have no margin for comfort always beget. But after all this is done it will be found that our markets are open to friendly commercial exchanges of enormous value to the other great powers. From the time of my induction into office the duty of the using of every power and influence given by law to the executive department for the development of larger markets for our products, especially our farm products, has been kept constantly in mind, and no effort has been or will be spared to promote that end. We are under no disadvantages in any foreign market, except that we pay our workmen and workwemen better wages than are paid elsewhere-better abstractly and better relatively to the necessaries of life. I do not doubt that a very largely increased foreign trade is accessible to us without bartering for either our home market for such p oducts of the farm and shop as our own people can supply or the wages of our working people. In many of the products of wood and iron, and in meats and breadstufs, we have advantages that only need better facilities of intercourse and transportation to secure for

them large foreign markets. THE RECIPROCITY CLAUSE of the tariff act wisely and effectively opens the way to secure a large recipro cal trade in exchange for the free admission to our ports of certain products. The right of ind-pendent nations to make special reciprocal trades concessions is well established, and does not impair either the bounty due to other powers or what is known as "the favored nation clause," so generally found in commercial treaties. What is given to one for an adequate considerat on cannot be claimed by another freely The state of the revenues was such that we could dispense with any import duties upon coffee, teas, hides and lower grades of sugar and molasses, that the large advantage resulting to countries producing and exporting these articles placing them on the free list entitled us to return in the way of customs concesslops upon articles exported by us to them was so obvious that to have gratuituously abandoned the opportunity to enlarge our trade would have been an unpardonable error. There were but two methous obtaining control of question open to congress-to place all of these articles upon dutiable lists, subject to such treaty agreements as could be secured, or to place them all presently upon the free list, but subject the reimposition of specified duties if countries from which we received them should refuse to give to us suitable reciprocal benefits. This latter method I think possesses great advantages. I express in advance of the con-sent of congress to reciprocity arrangements affecting these products which must otherwise have been delayed and unascertained until each treaty was ratified by the senate and necessary legislation enacted by congress. Experience has shown that some treaties looking to reciprocal trade have failed to secure a two-third vote in the senate for ratifica tion, and others which have passed that stage have for years awaited the concurrence of the house and senate in such modifications of our revenue laws as were necessary to give effect to their provisions. We now have the concurrence of both houses in advance in a distinct and definite offer of free entry to our ports of specific articles. The executive is not required to deal in conjecture as to what congress will accept; indeed, this reciprocity provision is more than an offer. Our part of the bargain is complete. Delivery has been made, and when the countries from which we receive sugar, coffee, tea and hides have placed on their free lists such of our products as shall be agreed upon as an equivalent for our concession, a proclamation of that fact completes the transaction, and in the meantime our own people have free sugar, tea, coffee a d hides. The indications thus far given are very hopeful of early and

FAVORABLE ACTION by the countries from which we receive our large imports of coffee and sugar, and it is confidently believed that if steam communication with these countries can be promptly improved and enlarged, the next year will show a most gratifying increase in our exports of breadstuffs and provisions, as well as some important lines of manufactured

STEAMSHIP LINES.

Encouragement Necessary to Secure the Establishment of Ocean Communication.

In addition to the important bills that became laws before the adjournment of the last session, some other bills of the highest importance were well advanced toward a final vote, and now stand upon the calendar of the two houses in favored positions. The present session has a fixed limit, and if these measures are formation, as the terms of the act not now brought to a final vote all the of the interior suggests some modifica-

work that has been done upon them by this congress is lost.

The proper consideration of these, of an apportionment bill and of the annual appropriation bills will require not only that no working day of the session shall be lost, but that measures of minor and Already we begin to hear from abroad local interest shall not be allowed to interrupt or returd the progress of those that are of universal interest. In view of these conditions, I refrain from bringing before you at this time some suggestions that would otherwise be made, and most enruestly invoke your attention to the duty of perfecting the important leg slation now well advanced. To some of these measures, the most important I now briefly call your attention. I desire to repeat with added urgency the recommendations contained in my last annual message in relation to the development of AMERICAN STEAMSHIP LINES.

The reciprocity clause of the tariff bill

will be largely limited and its benefits

retarded and diminished if provision is

not contemporaneously made to encourage the establishment of first-class steam communication between our ports and our overtures for enlarged commercial exchanges. Steamships carrying the mails, statedly and frequently, offering to passengers comfortable, safe and speedy transit is the first condition; it carries the order or buyer, but not all that is ordered or bought. It gives to the sailing vessel such cargoes as are not urgent or perishable, and indirectly, at least, promotes that unportant adjunct of commerce. There is now both in country and in nation, Central and South America, a state of expectation and confidence as to the increase that will give a double value to your prompt action upon this question. The present situation of our mail communication with Australia illustrates the importance of early action by congress. The Oceanic steamship company maintains a line of steamers between San Francisco. Sydney and Auckconsisting of two of which are of United States registry and one of foreign registry. For the service done by this line in carrying the mails we pay annually the sum of \$46,000, being, as estimated, the full sea and United States land which is the limit fixed by law. The colonies of New South Wales and New Zealand have been paying annually to thesa lines £37,000 for carrying the mails from Sydney and Auckland to San Francisco. The contract under which this payment has been made is now about to expire, and those colonies have refused to renew their contract unless the United States shall pay a more equitable proportion of the whole sum necessary to maintain the service. I am advised by the postmaster-general that the United States receives for carrying the Australian mail sacks brought to San Francisco in these steamers by rail to Vancouver an estimated annual in-come of \$75,000, while I have stated we are paying out for the support of the steamship line which brings this mail to us only \$46,000, leaving an annual surplus resulting from this service \$23,000. The trade of the United States with Australia, which is in a considerable part carried by these steamers, and the whole of which is practically dependent upon the mail communication, which we maintain is

LARGELY IN OUR FAVOR. Our total exports of merchandise to Australian ports during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, were \$11,466,484, while the total imports of merchandise from these ports were only \$4,277,676. If we are not willing to see this important steamship line withdrawn or continued with Vancouver substituted for San Francisco as the American terminal, congress should put it in the power of the postmaster-general to make a liberal increase in the amount now paid for the transportation of this important mail.

The South Atlantic and gulf ports occupy a very favored position towards the new and important commerce which the reciprocity clause of the teriff act and promote. Steamship lines from these ports to some northern port of South America will almost certain affect a connection between the railroad systems of the continents long before any con-

tinuous line of railroads can be operated. The very large appropriation made at the last session for the harbor at Galveston was justified, as it seemed by these considerations the great Northwest will South as well as to the East, and of the new markets opened for the surplus food products and for many of the manufactured products.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Incorporation of an International Bank-Rellef of the Courts.

I had occasion in last my message to transmit to congress a report adopted by the International American conference upon the subject of the incorporation of an international bank with a view to facilitating money exchange between the states represented in that conference. Such an institution would greatly promote the trade we are seeking to develop. I renew the recommedation that a carful and well-guarded charter be granted. Do not think the powers granted should include those ordinarily exercised by trust guaranty and safe deposit companies. Of that more branches in the United States should be authorized than are strictly necessary to accomplish the object primarily in view-namely. the convenience of foreign exchanges. It is quite important that prompt action should be taken in this matter in order that any appropriations for better communciation with these countries and any agreements that may be made for reciprocal trade may not be hindered by the inconvenience of making exchanges through European money centers or burdened by the tribute which is an incident of that method of business.

The bill for the relief of district courts has after many years of discussion reached a position when final action is easily attainable, and it is boped that any differences of opinion may be so harmonized as to save the essential features of this very important measure. In this connection I earnestly renew my recommendation that the realities of the judges of the United States district courts be so adjusted that none of them shall receive less than \$5000 per annum. LAND GRANTS.

The subject of the unadjusted Spanish and Mexican land grants and the urgent necessity for providing some commissio or tribunal for the trial of questions of title growing out of them were twice brought by me to the attention of congress at the last session. Bills have been reported from the proper committees in both houses upon the subject, and I very earnestly hope that this congress will put an end to the delay which has attended the settlement of the disputes as to titles between settlers and claumants under these grants. These disputes retard the proserity and disturb the peace of a large number of citizens. An important communication from the governor of Ne Mexico in his last report to the secretary

Strange indeed that * SPLAIN THUNG Nike SAPOLIO should make everything so bright, but "A needle clothes others, and is itself naked. Try it in your next house-cleaning

What folly it would be to car crass with a pair of scissors! Yet people do equally silly things every do. Modern progress has grown up from the hooked single to the swing or scythe and thence to the han mower. So don't use scissors!

But do you use SAPOLIO? If you don't you are as much behind the age as if you cut grass with a dinner knife. Once there were no some. Then one soap served all purposes. Now the casible folks use one soap in the toilet, another in the tub, one soap in the stables, and SAPOLIO for all scouring and house-cleaning.

lions of the pending bills relating to the holding of farm lands. I commend to your attention the suggestions of the secretary of the interior upon this subject.

BANKRUPT LAW. The enactment of a national bankrupt law is regarded desirable. The constitution having given to congress jurisdiction of this subject, it should be exercised, and uniform rules provided for the administration of the affairs of insolvent debtors. The inconveniences resulting from the occasional and temporary exercise of this power by congress, and from the conflicting state codes of insolvency which come into force intermediately, should be removed by the enactment of a simple, inexpensive and permanent national bankrupt isw. COPYRIGHT LAW.

I also renew my recommendations in favor of legislation affording a just copyright and protection to foreign authors on a footing of reciprocal advantage for our authors abroad.

UNIFORM COUPLERS. It may still be impossible for this congress to inaugurate by suitable legislation a movement looking to uniformity and increased safety in the use of couplers and brakes upon freight trains engaged in interstate commerce. The chief difficulty in the way is to secure an agreement as to the best appliance, simplicity, effectiveness and cost being considered. This difficulty will only yield to legislation which based upon full inquiry and impartial tests. The purpose should be to secure the co-operation of all well disposed managers and owners, but the fearful fact that every year's delay involves the sacrifice of two thousand; lives and the maining of 20,000 young men should plead, both with congress and the managers, against any needless delay. WATER SUPPLY.

The subject of the conservative and equal distribution of the water supply of the arid regions has had much attention from congress, but has not as yet been put upon a permanent and satisfactory basis. The urgency of the subject does not grow out of any large present demand for the use of these lands for agriculture, but out of the danger that the water supply and the sites for the necessarv catch basins may fall into the hands of individuals or private corporations, and be used to render subservient the large areas dependent upon such supply. The owner of the water is the owner of the lands, however the titles may run. All unappropriated natural water sources, and all necessary reservoir sites should be held by the government tor equal use at fair rates, of the homestead settlers, who will eventually take up these lands. The United States should not, in my opinion, undertake the construc ion of dams or canals, but should limit its work to such surveys and observations as will determine the water supply, both surface and subterranean, the areas capable of irrigation, and the use, location and storage capacity of reservoirs. This done, the use of the water and sale of the reservoir sites might be granted to the respective states and territories, or to uals or associations, upon the contion that the necessary work should be constructed and the water furnished at fair rates without discrimination, the rates to be subject to supervision by the legislatures or by boards of water commissioners duly constituted. The essential thing to be secured is the common and equal use at fair rates of the accumulated water supply. It were almost better that these lands should remain arid than that those who occupy them should become the slaves of unrestrained monopolies, controlling the one and essential element of land values and crop results.

The use of the telegraph by the postoffice department as a means for the rapid transmission of written communientions is, I believe, upon proper terms, quite desirable. The government does not own or operate the railroads, and it should not. I think, own or operate any telegraph lines. It does, however, seem to be quite practicable for the government to contract with the telegraph companies, as it does with the railroad companies, to carry at specified rates such communications as the senders may designate for this method of transmission. I recommend that such legislation be enacted as will enable the postoffice department fairly to test, by experiment, the advantages of such a use of the telegrauh.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

A Plea for the Force Bill Made by the President If any intelligent and loval company

of American citizens were required to

catalogue the essential humane conditions of national life. I do not doubt that with ab-olute unanimity they would begin with free and honest electious, and it is gratifying to know generally there is a growing and non-partisan demand for better election laws, but against this sign of hope and progress must be set the depressing and undeniable fact that election laws and methods are sometimes cunningly contrived to secure minority control, while violence completes the shortcomings of fraud. In my last annual message I suggested that the development of the existing law providing a federal supervision of congressional elections offered an effective mode of reforming these abuses. The need of such a law has manifested itself in many parts of the country, and its wholesome re straints and penalties will be useful in all. The constitutionality of such legislation has been affirmed by the supreme court. It is probable the effectiveness is evidenced by the character of the opposition that is made to it. It has be renounced as if it were a new exercise of federal power and invasion of the rights of the states. Nothing could be further from the truth. Congress has already fixed the time for the election of members of congress. It has declared that the votes for members of congress must be written or printed ballots. It has pro-vided for the appointment by the

courts in civit certain number of citizens of supervisors, and made it the relate supervise the registration of you ducted by state officers, to chall persons offering to register, to ally inspect and scrutinize the region lists, and to affix their names to the for the purpose of identification . prevention of fraud by electremain with the boxes till the ve counted, to write on the reg and election returns any states touching the accuracy and faithers the registry and election, and take and transmit to the the house

tives any evidence of fraudulent per tices which may be presented to the The same law provides for the same ment of deputy United States marshall to attend the polls, support the same visors in the discharge of their and to arrest persons violating the tion laws. The provisions of this tan lar title of the Revised Statute. been put into exercise by both great no ical parties in the North as well as the South, by the filing with the of the petitions required by law, it

not, therefore, a question of who shall have a Federal election law, for a now have had one, and have but for nearly twenty years, but whether wa shall have AN EFFECTIVE LAW. The present law stops just short of at feetiveness, for it surrenders to the local authorities all control over the common

tion which established prima face-rist to a sent in the house of representatives This done, should be secured the equality of Republicans, and the purity of elect ors must be maintained, or everythin that is valuable in our system of government is lost. Qualifications of an elevior must be sought in inw, not in opinion and the prejudices or fears of any class however powerful. The path of the elector to the ballot box must be free from the ambush of fear, and the entire ment of fraud, the counts so true and open that none shall gainsay it. Such : law should be absolutely nonpartised and impartial, it should give advantage to housety and control to majorities, Surely there is nothing sectional about this creed, and if it shall happen that penalties of laws intended right tail hers and not there, it is not because the law is sectional, but because, harmly, crass is local and not universal, nor should it be forgotten that every law, whether relating to locations or to any other subject, whether enneted by the state or by the nation, has force behind it. The courts, the marshal or constantes, the posee comitants, the prisons are all and always behind the law. One cannot be justly charged with unfriendliness to any section, or who seeks only to restrain VIOLATIONS OF LAW and personal right. No community will

find lawlessness profitable, no community can afford to have it known that it officers, who are charged with the preser vation of the public peace and the restraint of the criminal classes, are themseives the product of fraud or violence. The magistrate is then without respect and the law without sanction. The floods of lawlessness cannot be levied and made to run in one channel. The killing of a United States marshal carrying a writ of arrest for an election offense is tuli of prompting and suggestion to men to whom are pursued by a city marshal for a crime against life or property. But it is said that this legislation will revive race animosities, and some have even suggested that when the neacetal methods of fraud are made impossible they may be supplanted by intimidation and violence. If the proposed law gives to any qualified elector by a hair's weight more than his equal influence or detracts by so much from any other qualified elector it is fatally impeached, but if the law is equal and the attimosities it is to evoke grow out of the fact that some electors have been accustome. to exercise the franchise for others as weil as for themselves, then these animosities ought not to be confessed without shame, and cannot be given any weight on the discussion without dishonor. No choice is left to me but h enforce with vigor all the laws intended to secure to the citizenship constitutional rights, and to recommend that the hadequacies of such laws be promptly remadied. If to promote with zeal and ready interest every project for the developments of its material interests, its rivers, harbors, mines, and factories and the intelligence, peace and security under the law of its communities and its homes, s not accepted as sufficient evidence friendliness to any state or section, cannot add connivance at election practices that not only disturb local results. but rob the electors of other state-jund sections of their most priceless political

rights. The preparation of the general appropriation bills should be conducted with the greatest care, and the closes! scrutiny of expenditures. Appropriations should be adequate to the needs of publie service, but they should be absolutely free from prodigality.

I venture again to remind you that the brief time remaining for the considers. tion of the important legislation now swaiting your attention offers no margin for waste. If the present duty is discharged with diligence, fidelity and courage, the work of the Fifty-first congress may be confidently submitted to the considerate judgment of the people. (Signed) BENJAMIN HARRISON,

Executive Managon.

COMMITTEE.

Jollification. Seymour, Baylor, county, will turn berself loose on December 16 and 17, and entertain prospectors and business sentative p n from Haskell, Throck-making, Knog, Archer, other belong counties to visito and give informs-their respective. mingle v h visito gounties. espective in depot rt Worth uton and one fare for at 9:3 charged. Everybody